

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARKS



TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

Life's better outside.®

*Celebrate the Holidays at
Texas State Parks*

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MONUMENT HILL AND
KREISCHE BREWERY SHS

Christmas is a great time to get out and visit a Texas state park or historic site. Whether it's a festive event with family and friends, or a solitary nature walk on a crisp evening, there's something for just about everyone this time of year in a state park. Before attending any event, please check with the park to confirm applicable fees and charges, availability, and to ensure the event is still taking place. Visit www.TexasStateParks.org/holidays for the most up-to-date information on State Park holiday events and promotions.

To find information about parks, visit TexasStateParks.org or call (800) 792-1112 and press option 3.



COVER PHOTO:
FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS SP



BATTLESHIP TEXAS SHS

Battleship Texas

Yuletide Texas

Dec. 1-31 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
(Closed Christmas Eve and
Christmas Day)

Free for Texas State Parks Pass
members and for children 12 and
under, \$12 non-members, \$6 senior
citizen 65+

Missing family and friends, the crew
of the *Texas* did their best to make
the ship feel more like home during
the holidays. Come share the sights
and sounds of the season as the ship
is adorned with lights and ornaments,
reminiscent of the crew's traditional
decorations. Wheelchair accessibility
on main deck only. (281) 479-2431

Abilene State Park

Fa La La in the Forest

Dec. 12 6-9 p.m.

Campers will be asked to adorn their
campsites, screen shelters, or yurts
with lights and decorations. Camp-
site fees will be waived for the day of
the event for anyone who decorates
their site. The public will be invited
to tour the park, free of charge.
Cookies, hot chocolate, and other
refreshments will be served from
6 to 8 p.m. and Santa is expected to
make an appearance. Anyone inter-
ested in decorating a campsite
should contact the park in advance.
(325) 572-3204

Atlanta State Park

Christmas in the Park

Dec. 18-19 Sunset – 9 p.m.

Decorate your campsite and join in
bringing Christmas cheer to visitors
as they enjoy a free drive through the
park. Visitors will also get the chance
to see Santa, Mrs. Claus, the Grinch
and Smokey the Bear. Refreshments
and treats will be served. Fees waived
for those campers who participate in
the festivities by decorating your
campsite! (903) 796-6476

Barton Warnock Visitor Center

Christmas on the Border

Dec. 16 6:30 p.m.

Join staff and volunteers in celebrat-
ing the holiday season in West Texas
border fashion. The Terlingua
Chorus, Terlingua Community
School Band, and a variety of
community performers will provide
entertainment. Refreshments and
treats will be served while Santa
Claus visits with the children.
(432) 424-3327

Bastrop State Park

Christmas with the CCC

Dec. 12 10 a.m. – noon

Escape the hoopla of holiday shop-
ping and join us for an afternoon of
cookies, hot chocolate, coffee, and
cheer! Come on over to the Refectory
at Bastrop State Park for cookie
decorating, a holiday craft, and an
optional guided hike led by one of our
wonderful Master Naturalists. Don't
be shy! Even Santa is stopping by to
admire the handiwork of the Civilian
Conservation Corps. Park will be
collecting non-perishable donations
for local food bank; drop off your
donation at the Refectory. Entry fees
waived for event. (512) 321-2101

A Sailors Christmas

Dec. 12 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Free for Texas State Parks Pass
members and for children 12 and
under, \$12 non-members, \$6 senior
citizen 65+

Come join us for truly unique
Christmas experience! Step back in
time with the *Battleship Texas* for
some holiday fun! Drawing on the
ship's history, the crew will recreate
some of the Christmas moments
shared by the sailors who served on
her. Send a Morse code message to
the North Pole, make your very own
Battleship ornaments, listen to the
sounds of the season with live
performances by area bands and
choirs, and take a picture with Santa.
While onboard, tickle your sweet
tooth with hot chocolate, hot cider
and cookies (while supplies last).
Wheelchair accessibility on main
deck only. (281) 479-2431

BATTLESHIP TEXAS SHS





BRAZOS BEND SP

Brazos Bend State Park

A Simple Christmas at Brazos Bend State Park

Dec. 5 3-7 p.m.

Escape the hustle and bustle of the season and enjoy the simple life: making s'mores, Dutch oven cooking, children's crafts and Victorian-era games, hayrides and more, plus a visit from a "Southern Santa." Cap off the evening with "The Brazos River Pickers" old-time, bluegrass band. Refreshments available. Bring a picnic supper to enjoy while you listen to the performance at the outdoor amphitheater. Accessible for the mobility impaired. For more information, visit www.brazosbend.org. (979) 553-5101

Cedar Hill State Park

Caroling at Penn Farm

Dec. 12 6:30-8 p.m.

Take a lantern-lit tour of Penn Farm. As we explore this historic farm, you will hear stories of the Penn family and their pioneering spirit. Learn what life on the farm was like for this family as they farmed and raised livestock for over a century. The tour will wrap up with a Christmas carol sing-a-long around the campfire while enjoying hot chocolate, hot apple cider, cookies and other holiday treats. (972) 291-3900

Cleburne State Park

Dutch Oven Christmas

Dec. 19 9 a.m. - noon

Are you interested in learning the art of Dutch oven cooking? Join the Dutch Oven Society in making a variety of Christmas dishes as they provide a "Dutch Oven 101" course. Afterwards you'll be ready to try your hand at making your own tasty treats the next time you go camping. (817) 641-6024

Cooper Lake State Park – Doctors Creek Unit

9th Annual Christmas in the Park

Dec. 11-12 5-10 p.m.

Visitors will find the park and the entire campground decorated to match the beauty of the holidays. Those joining us on Saturday evening from 6 to 9 p.m. will also find refreshments and have the opportunity to visit with Santa (remember to bring your camera for pictures). Sponsored by the Friends of Doctors Creek. \$5 per vehicle. (903) 395-3100

Daingerfield State Park

3rd Annual Christmas in the Park

Dec. 18 & 19 6-9 p.m.

Come experience a Pineywoods Christmas at Daingerfield State Park. Take a drive through the park to see the beautiful Christmas lights and decorated campsites. Santa will be here taking your last minute requests just in time for Christmas; don't forget your camera! (903) 645-2921

Dinosaur Valley State Park

Christmas is for the Birds

Dec. 12 2-4 p.m.

Come on out for a fun, all-ages workshop making bird feeders. Texas winters are tough for birds, often there is not enough food available. Setting out and replenishing feeders gives birds makes it easier for our feathered friends to make it to spring. There will also be a surprise

visitor in the park that will provide a great photo opportunity. Meet at the Park Store. (254) 897-4588

Enchanted Rock State Natural Area

Christmas at "The Rock"

Dec. 12

Enjoy a Hill Country Christmas with a variety of holiday-themed events happening throughout the day. Start the day with an Enchanted Hike at 9:30 a.m., where you'll join one of Santa's park elves for a hike to the summit of Enchanted Rock. At 4:30 p.m. join Santa and his elves for an old-fashioned hay ride through the park. Enjoy hot chocolate and cookies courtesy of Friends of Enchanted Rock. At 7 p.m., join park staff on an exhilarating hike to the summit of Enchanted Rock. Once at the top, enjoy a reading of the classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* Get in the spirit and wear a "Grinch Stocking Cap" or wear your own "Grinch-Gear." (830) 685-3636

Estero Llano Grande State Park

Bunuelo Bites and Christmas Lights

Dec. 11 7-10 p.m.

Come enjoy an evening of Christmas spirit. Walk the lighted path to the visitor's center where you can join us in crafts and activities for the kids. Christmas carols around the piano are sure to warm the soul. Travel by tinsel trolley to Pauraque Hall to enjoy traditional hot chocolate and bunuelos. Santa is sure to arrive to join in the festivities at one of his favorite parks in Texas. (956) 565-3919

Santa's Bird Hike

Dec. 19 9-11 a.m.

It shouldn't be a surprise that Santa's a birder: he loves keeping a list and checks it twice during his annual trip to the RGV to spot those South Texas specialties like Green Jay, Plain Chachalaca, and the Great Kiskadee, to name a few. Join Santa and his

favorite bird guide friends on a special bird walk. Regular entrance fees apply. (956) 565-3919

Night Hike with Santa

Dec. 23 8–10 p.m.

Join us for a night adventure full of Christmas cheer and nature discovery as we embark on a 2-hour journey searching for nocturnal creatures with Santa. We will discover owls, scorpions, tarantulas, and more on our journey. Regular entrance fees apply. (956) 565-3919

Fairfield Lake State Park

5th Annual Christmas in the Park

Dec. 12 6–10 p.m.

Celebrate this joyous season with a variety of holiday-themed activities. Take a hay ride through the “Tour of Lights” in our beautifully renovated Cooks Ferry Camping Loop. Gather around a toasty, country campfire and warm up while you listen to Christmas music and enjoy a cup of hot cocoa or delicious wassail and cookies to help put you in the Christmas spirit. Even Santa will join in the Christmas cheer and is expected to stop by for a visit from 7 to 9 p.m. We will host the “Tails and Trails on the Lake” pet supply drive that will benefit local animal shelters. Entrance fees will be waived, but visitors are encouraged to donate to help support Friends of Fairfield Lake. (903) 389-4514

Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site

Twilight Firelight

Nov. 28 4:30–7 p.m.

Take a journey back to the 1850s as the inn comes to life with lanterns, music and holiday traditions! Enjoy the ambiance of the candlelit inn, stagecoach rides, dancing, and a host of living history characters! Arrive in style, as you board a stagecoach at the Grimes County courthouse for a ride down main street on your way to the inn. There you will meet your

hosts from 1850, Henry and Rachel Fanthorp, along with other travelers from the period. As the sound of a fiddle fills the air, they will entertain you with stories, poetry, period music, wassail and good cheer. No reservations are required as tickets are available near the courthouse parking from 4:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. Suggested ticket donations are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. (936) 878-2214



FANTHORB INN SHS

Fort Leaton State Historic Site

Posada at the Fort

Dec. 15 6:30–9 p.m.

Come celebrate Christmas with a traditional Mexican posada. Walk and sing with Mary and Joseph as they search for shelter. Follow the luminarias up to the front door, where you'll enjoy a Christmas carol concert performed by a local choir, a warm fire, and even a piñata or two. Refreshments will be served. Entrance and event fees waived for this event. Wheelchair accessible for most of the event. (432) 229-3613

Fort Richardson State Park and Historic Site

Ghosts of Christmas Past

Dec. 12 5:30–7 p.m.

Join us as we recreate Christmas in the 1870s. Once the sun sets, you'll find the historic buildings filled with soldiers and their families as they go about their evening celebrations and the routines of a nineteenth century U.S. military post. Visitors are invited to stroll through the buildings and catch a glimpse of the past. Refreshments will be served. (940) 567-3506



FORT RICHARDSON SP&HS

Franklin Mountains State Park

Turkey Trot Hike

Nov. 26 9 a.m.

Join us for a pre-feast hike up to West Cottonwood Springs. Length: 2–3 hours, 2 miles. Difficulty level: moderate to difficult. At the summit we'll cross a wooden bridge and encounter towering cottonwood trees, a continuously dripping spring and an ecosystem all its own! (915) 566-6441

Fall Family Hike

Nov. 28 9 a.m.

This easy level hike is perfect for families with small children. Length: 1–1.5 hours, less than ¼ mile. Learn plant identification and visit the bird blind for some nature viewing. Excellent educational opportunity! (915) 566-6441

Guided Beginner's Mountain Bike Ride

Dec. 6 9 a.m.

Enjoy the Chihuahuan Desert and Franklin Mountains on two wheels! Length: 2 hours, about 5–6 miles. We'll start on the street and move to gravel roads and trails. This beginner's level course will include discussions on body positioning and technique. Must bring your own mountain bike and helmet. Meet at Chuck Heinrich park. (915) 566-6441



FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS SP

Howl-iday Hounds Hike

Dec. 12 9 a.m.

Take a dog-friendly hike along the Lower Sunset Trail. This hike takes about 2 hours and is considered moderate difficulty; it offers views along the edges of the arroyos and off to the west. Come decked out in Santa hats and festive attire for both you and your pooch. Regular entrance fees apply. (915) 566-6441

Christmas Mine Tour

Dec. 13 10 a.m.

Looking for something new this Christmas season? You'll have quite the story to tell, after going on this guided hike. We'll begin on the West Cottonwood Spring Trail, and enter the mine to explore the history and geology of the area and end on the Agave Loop. The exploration into the mines is fun and easy with one initial short belly crawl through the opening. (915) 566-6441

T'was the Hike Before Christmas

Dec. 18 9 a.m.

Take a break from the holiday rush and experience the beauty of the Franklin Mountains. Wear your Santa hat and festive attire! Length: 2-2.5 hours, about 2.5 miles. This hike explores the Schaeffer Shuffle trail. (915) 566-6441

Birding Photography 101 – Christmas Edition

Dec. 19 1-4 p.m.

Learn the basics of photographing our feathered friends. Bring your binoculars, bird identification book, birding apps, camera, your camera's manual, warm layers, water and lunch. Must have reservations. (915) 566-6441



GOLIAD SP

Goliad State Park

History in Lights

Dec. 1 – Dec. 31

Every evening, 6-10 p.m.

Come take an evening stroll at Mission Espíritu Santo and discover the history of the site. Flickering light and shadow tell the story of this remarkable site as visitors walk the same path taken by Native Americans and Spanish Franciscans Priests so long ago. Park entrance fees apply; please use self-pay station. (361) 645-3405

Christmas Concert

Dec. 5 6 p.m.

Experience the sights and sounds of the holiday season at Mission Espíritu Santo! Under the direction of Dr. James Lee, the Beeville Community Chorus will present a selection of sacred and secular Christmas music inside the old mission chapel. Flickering candlelight, phenomenal acoustics, and voices raised in song create a visual and auditory Christmas experience like no other. The park store will be open to provide you with unique gifts for everyone on your list. Park entrance fees apply. (361) 645-3405

Los Pastores – A Shepherd's Play

Dec. 19 2 p.m.

Franciscan priests created shepherd's plays (which depict the shepherd's journey to see Baby Jesus) in the 16th century to share the Spanish culture and religion with Meso-American Indians. Familiar cultural tools such as music, dance, action, and costumes were used to communicate the meanings of the plays to non-Spanish speaking Native Americans. This Spanish language presentation will give attendees a firsthand perspective of what life was like for those living at the mission. (361) 645-3405

Government Canyon State Natural Area

Pioneer Kids Christmas

Dec. 19 10 a.m. – noon

Join us for a Pioneer Kids Christmas! Experience what a typical Christmas would have been like for pioneer children in this region. Learn about the origins of pioneer Christmas traditions; create your own nineteenth-century Christmas decorations and toys; and listen to Christmas stories pioneer children may have heard. Reservations requested, ending at noon Dec. 18. For reservations or more information, e-mail heather.danner@tpwd.texas.gov or call (210) 688-9055 x2006. Include the name of each participant/guardian, age of participant, contact e-mail and telephone number. (210) 688-9055

GOVERNMENT CANYON SNA



Guadalupe River State Park

T'was the Night at the Guad

Dec. 5 6–8 p.m.

An evening of holiday fun awaits at Guadalupe River State Park. We'll gather at the amphitheater, starting the night with a reading of *T'was the Night Before Christmas*. Afterwards, enjoy a Christmas-themed movie under the stars. Regular entrance fees apply. (830) 438-2656

Indian Lodge & Davis Mountains State Park

Thanksgiving Celebration

Nov. 26–28

On Thanksgiving, the Black Bear Restaurant at Indian Lodge will have a Thanksgiving Buffet from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday will be filled with a variety of activities including fireside chats in the lobby and kids crafts in the interpretive center. Saturday we will hold the "Teeny Tiny Turkey Trot and 5K," a great way to kick the holiday season into high gear! (432) 426-3254

Festival of Lights

Dec. 12 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Begin the day by having breakfast with Santa at the Black Bear Restaurant from 8 to 11 a.m. Afterwards, experience seasonal displays, historic tree decorations, and a courtyard all aglow with lit trees and wreaths. Learn how to make edible tree ornaments for our feathered friends, sprays to decorate your home and much more at the Davis Mountain Interpretive Center. Take a stroll and sample homemade cookies and seasonal desserts as well as fresh mulled cider, hot cocoa and homemade eggnog. Entrance and activity fees waived for this event. (432) 426-3254

Lake Bob Sandlin State Park

Christmas in the Park

Dec. 11–12

Visitors are invited to drive or stroll through the park and see campsites "dressed in holiday style." Saturday

night stick around for kid's crafts, a visit with Santa, and hot chocolate after your tour of the lights. Entrance fees waived for participating visitors. Campers who agree to decorate their campsites will camp for free, cabin campers decorating will receive a discount. Please call office in advance to sign up for a site; participating campers may begin arriving on Wednesday, Dec. 9, and must have displays ready by noon on Friday, Dec. 11. (903) 572-5531



LAKE BROWNWOOD SP

Lake Brownwood State Park

Holiday at the Lake

Dec. 19

Come camp with us and bring your decorations with you! We will be having a competition for best decorated campsite. The winner will get their campsite fees waived for the evening. For visitors and overnight guests, activities will include cookie decorating and historic toy making. There will also be a campfire talk with a park ranger, hot chocolate, and the chance to visit and take photos with Santa. (325) 784-5223

Lake Colorado City State Park

All Around the Campfire Christmas

Dec. 12 5–8 p.m.

Bring out your family, friends, and your Christmas spirit as we celebrate this wonderful holiday season. From 4 to 6 p.m., there will be games and crafts in the rec hall; afterwards we'll carol our way to the campfire for some classic Christmas stories. Feel free to bring snacks, like marshmallows or hotdogs, to roast. Santa is a fan of campfires, so be sure to have your Christmas wish list ready. Regular entrance fees apply. (325) 728-3931

Lake Mineral Wells State Park

Cross Timbers Cowboy Christmas

Dec. 5 7 p.m.

Bring the whole family to the Lone Star Amphitheater and experience Christmas cowboy style. Join park ranger and cowboy poet, David Owens, cowboy singer, Gedy Dunlap, and cowboy poet, David Hansford, around the campfire for an evening of cowboy culture through music, stories and poems. Accessible for the mobility impaired. The program is free with paid park entrance fee or a State Park Pass. (940) 328-1171

Lake Tawakoni State Park

Twinkle Tour

Dec. 12 5–8 p.m.

Come camp with us and decorate your campsite with your favorite holiday decorations. Later that evening join us on a hayride, or drive your vehicle, through the park to view the Christmas decorations. If the weather should turn bad, visitors can use their own vehicles to tour the park. Event fee of \$5 per vehicle. (903) 560-7123



LAKE TAWAKONI SP

Lake Whitney State Park

2nd Annual Christmas at the Park

Dec. 11–12

You're invited to come out and show your holiday spirit! Campsite fees will be waived for all visitors who decorate their sites on Friday and Saturday night. Visitor entry fees will be waived Saturday night from 5 to 10 p.m. for all visitors who would like drive or walk through the park and experience the decorated campgrounds. Don't miss the opportunity to pick up some unique Christmas gifts at the park headquarters! (254) 694-3793



LYNDON B. JOHNSON SP&HS

Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site

Holiday Cookie Decorating and German Traditions

Nov. 28 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Bring the entire family and get into the holiday spirit by spending the day at the park. Join us in decorating cookies as it was done for German Christmas trees in the 1900s. Enjoy participating in the German holiday traditions of wreath making, candle making and await the arrival of St. Nicholas. Make sure to stop by the park store and get a jump on your holiday shopping. (830) 644-2252

46th Annual LBJ Tree Lighting

Dec. 20 6 p.m.

Join the Texas Hill Country Community in this special tradition started 46 years ago by President and Mrs. Johnson. Enjoy carolers, a live nativity, Santa Claus, the spectacular tree lighting and more. Then revisit the past at the Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm where you'll find special German cookies and cakes, glowing lanterns, and a traditional candlelit German Christmas tree. The park store will be open to help you find all your holiday gifts. (830) 644-2252

Martin Creek Lake State Park

Christmas in the Pineywoods

Dec. 4-5 6-9 p.m.

Take a drive through the Pineywoods and see campsites decorated with holiday lights. Kids will have the

opportunity to visit with Santa Claus. Entrance fees will be waived if you bring an unwrapped toy for a local charity group. Campers may camp for free if they decorate their campsite big and bright, so everyone can tell it is Christmas. Campers must contact office for reservation by Friday, Nov. 27. Campers may arrive starting Tuesday, Dec. 1 to decorate their sites. (903) 836-4336



MARTIN CREEK LAKE SP

McKinney Falls State Park

Winter Solstice Celebration

Dec. 20 1-3 p.m.

Celebrate the start of winter at McKinney Falls State Park! Join a ranger for a lunchtime campfire, followed by winter stories and the burning of a yule log. Bring your picnic lunch and anything you'd like to cook over a fire. Chairs are recommended. (512) 415-8793

Meridian State Park

Deck the Park

Dec. 18 & 19

Take a break from the rush of the holiday season and relax in a state park that is dressed for the season. All overnight campers are encouraged to decorate their sites. A best in show prize will be awarded after dusk on Saturday but all participating campers will be entered for a prize determined by random drawing. Visitors are encouraged to visit the park and walk through or drive the camping loops to take in the sights. (254) 435-2536

Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery State Historic Site

Trail of Lights

Dec 5, 11, 12, 18 & 19 6-8 p.m.

\$4/adult and \$1/child 3-12 years old

Celebrate Christmas in early Texas-German style! Enjoy a beautifully illuminated quarter-mile trail transformed by thousands of lights that decorate Monument Hill and Kreische House. View the lights of the town of La Grange from the trail's hillside overlook. Experience the home of H.L. Kreische decorated in traditional Texas-German 1850s-era Christmas splendor. Bring your children; they won't want to miss an opportunity to whisper Christmas wishlists to Mr. and Mrs. Claus! Enjoy the genuine seasonal hospitality of the Friends of Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery, who sponsor the event. Get into the Christmas Season's spirit with us – Texas-German style! Sorry, no pets or alcohol allowed. (979) 968-5658



MONUMENT HILL AND
KREISCHE BREWERY SHS

Mother Neff State Park

1st Annual Mother Neff Christmas

Dec. 5 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Holiday lights after sunset

Join us for creative Christmas crafts and holiday-themed activities. There will be a scavenger hunt that will get you exploring the park's scenery and wildlife. Visit the park headquarters for a book signing event and to check out the park store's unique nature and camping gifts for everyone on your list. Overnight visitors are encouraged to decorate their sites since there will be a competition for the best decorated campsite. Judging will take place after sunset and a prize awarded. (254) 853-2389.

Palmetto State Park

A Winter Walk Back in Time

Dec. 5 3-4:30 p.m.

Join park staff on an exploration of the remarkable Civilian Conservation Corps historic sites within Palmetto State Park. We'll dig through the treasure trove of stories and illuminate the careful planning that went into the construction of this special park. The walking tour will cover approximately half a mile. The program is free with regular admission to the park. (830) 672-3266



PALMETTO SP

Old Fashioned Holiday Taffy Pull

Dec. 19 1-3 p.m.

Get ready for some holiday candy making fun as we make batches of homemade taffy. We will explore some of the different taffy recipes

from the Depression era and the sugar-rationed days of World War II. These all-time favorite recipes are sure to bring back memories for some and spark new interests in young hearts. Join us as we get our hands covered with sweet buttery goodness. The program is free with regular admission to the park. (830) 672-3266

Palo Duro Canyon State Park

Christmas in the Canyon

Dec. 17 6-8 p.m.

Join us for the jolliest fun you can have 800 feet below ground. Enjoy the beauty of hot air balloons against the backdrop of Palo Duro Canyon and pay a visit to Santa Claus at the Mack Dick Group Pavilion. Come for hot chocolate and Christmas cookies and stay for festive live music. Have your picture taken with Santa, then take a crisp nature hike on the Pioneer Nature Trail. Entry to the park will be free with the donation of a food item starting at 5:30 p.m. All food items will benefit the High Plains Food Bank. (806) 488-2227

Purtis Creek State Park

Christmas in Goshen

Dec. 4-5 6-10 p.m.

Step back in time to Goshen, the town adjacent to the park in the late 1800s. Drive through the campgrounds of Purtis Creek State Park and view Christmas light displays presented by our campers. Enjoy cookies provided by the campers and Friends of Purtis Creek as you drive the 2 miles of lighted campsites and Christmas scenes. Event fee of \$5 per carload will be charged for each evening. (903) 425-2332

Ray Roberts Lake State Park – Johnson Branch

It's Turkey Time!

Nov. 28 10:30 a.m.

Now that we've all eaten our fill of turkey, let's take some time to learn

about these big birds! Together, we'll explore the history of turkeys in Texas, where they live now, and just what exactly is a snood?!? We'll also dispel some of the more common myths about our feathered, poultry friends. (940) 637-2294

Calling All Turkeys!

Nov. 28 1:30 p.m.

Come learn all about the different types of calls made by tom and hen turkeys. You can practice making hen calls using a variety of turkey-calling tools. You'll even get to make your own turkey call! Meet at the amphitheater near the Kid Fish Pond. (940) 637-2294

Dreaming of a Wild Christmas

Dec. 19 4 p.m.

Join us for a fun-filled holiday-themed evening. Make your own popcorn garland, create a homemade present, and listen to a holiday story in front of a roaring fire. There will be hot cocoa and holiday treats to sample. Campers are encouraged to decorate their campsites, and following our holiday activities, there will be a drive through the park to see all the wonderful decorations! There will be a prize for the best decorated site as chosen by the park visitors. (940) 637-2294

RAY ROBERTS LAKE – JOHNSON BRANCH



Ray Roberts Lake State Park – Isle du Bois

Wild Christmas at Ray Roberts Lake

Dec. 19 4 p.m.

Get into the holiday spirit out at Ray Roberts Lake! Join us for an evening

of fun as we read our favorite holiday stories and sing Christmas carols by a warm fire while enjoying some hot cocoa and Dutch oven treats.

Campers are encouraged to decorate their campsites in holiday splendor. (940) 686-2148

Resaca de la Palma State Park

Jolly Night Hike

Dec. 12 5–9 p.m.

Gather your friends and family and join us for a night of Christmas cheer in the great outdoors! Spread the holiday spirit with a night of hiking, festive crafts, live performances by local talent, and a visit from our very own Green Santa! Admission Fee: Adults: \$6, Children 12 and under: \$2. (956) 350-2920

Sea Rim State Park

A Very Marshy Christmas

Dec. 19 3–6 p.m.

Ever wonder how Santa gets around in the marsh to visit the good little boys and girls? By air boat of course! On December 19, Santa and Mrs. Claus have booked Sea Rim's cabin and will be arriving by air boat. Children will have a photo opportunity with Santa starting at 3 p.m. when he arrives. Come early and visit the beach prior to Santa's arrival. (409) 971-2559

SEA RIM SP



Sheldon Lake State Park

Holiday in the Park

Dec. 13 1–4 p.m.

Get in the winter spirit with a Holiday in the Park! At this special event, we will make ornaments, build wreaths, and enjoy a holiday geocache hunt. Guests will also have the opportunity to join in a nature hike or visit the 82-foot John Jacob Observation Tower. Listen to some festive music and get ready for the holidays at this free event! Accessible for the mobility, visual and hearing impaired. (281) 456-2800

South Llano River State Park

Christmas at the Ranch

Dec. 5 12–5 p.m.

Come join us as the park celebrates Christmas at the Walter Buck, Jr. Ranch. With the original ranch home acting as the backdrop, several ranch-themed activities will be taking place at the park headquarters. Campers are encouraged to decorate their campsites in holiday splendor. In the evening, visitors can drive through the campground to take in the festive decorations. Entrance fees for day-use visitors will be waived. (325) 446-3994

Stephen F. Austin State Park

Family Breakfast with Santa

Dec. 12 8:30–11 a.m.

Santa and his elves will be stopping at Stephen F. Austin State Park for breakfast on their way to the North Pole. Please join us for a pancakes and sausage, fruit, juice and coffee breakfast provided by The Friends of Stephen F. Austin State Park. Kids can bring their wish list to share with Santa and then enjoy a Holiday Nature Walk through our beautiful nature trail. Don't forget your camera! Event fee: Kids 9 and under: \$4, Adults and kids 10 and older: \$5, Kids under 3: free. Event fee includes park entry fee. Bring non-perishable food items and unwrapped toy donations



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN SP

for delivery to The Sealy Christian Food Pantry. (979) 885-3613

Tyler State Park

Pineywoods Christmas and Winter Wonderland Hike

Dec. 12

Join us at 4 p.m. for a 2-mile stroll around the lake to enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells of winter. The park will be decorated with Christmas lights, and campers are encouraged to decorate their campsites. Visitors are encouraged to visit the lights starting at 5 p.m. Don't miss the chance to pick up some unique Christmas gifts at the park store. Refreshments will be served. Entry fees will be discounted for adults; as always, children 12 and under are free. Campers who agree to participate will be able to camp for free. Please call park office in advance to reserve a site; participating campers may begin arriving Thursday, Dec. 10. (903) 597-5338

Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site

Christmas on the Brazos featuring Barrington's Candlelight Christmas

Dec. 12

In the afternoon and evening, modern and historic activities for all ages will be staggered throughout the park. Independence Hall will host 19th century readings from some of our favorite Christmas literature at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. The Star of

the Republic Museum will host period crafts during regular hours. Music and merriment will surround you in the Visitor's Center as students from Brenham Music Academy play Christmas music from 2 to 4 p.m. and merchandise made by Texan artisans is featured and local Texas fare is available for sampling and tasting until 7 p.m. Take advantage of a self-serve photo opportunity with Santa and enjoy the opportunity to mingle with the miniature horses standing in for his reindeer. While you are there, visit Washington Emporium, the State Park Store, to find the perfect holiday gift.



WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS SHS

Barrington Living History Farm will begin its Candlelight Christmas event at 4:30 p.m., with the last tour starting at 8 p.m. Get a glimpse of Christmas time in the 1850s through a candlelit tour of Barrington Farm. The event will include live 19th century music and dancing, bonfires and Christmas readings, 1850s Santa Claus, musket firing, cookies and hot cider. Tour the historic home of the last president of the republic, Dr. Anson Jones, as the family enjoys their Christmas gathering. Visit the



WYLER AERIAL TRAMWAY

farm's quarters to hear how the enslaved at Barrington celebrated the season. Please allow at least one hour to complete the full experience. Standard site admission fees apply. Reservations for the evening program are strongly recommended. Barrington.Farm@tpwd.texas.gov or (936) 878-2214

Wyler Aerial Tramway

Turkey Hike

Nov. 26 8 a.m.

We will hike 1 mile up and another mile around Ranger Peak; afterwards we will ride the Tramway back to the base of the mountain. Bring: water, hat, and sturdy shoes.

Holidays at the Tramway

Dec. 19 noon-3 p.m.

Dec. 20 10 a.m. - noon

Start a new family tradition and have your picture taken with Santa Claus at the top of Ranger Peak. Take time

to see our Christmas decorations and to enjoy a cup of hot chocolate, apple cider, or coffee at our "Mile High" gift shop. You'll find unique gifts like candles, books, apparel, toys and other one-of-a-kind items for everyone on your shopping list. (915) 562-9899

Santa Christmas Hike

Dec. 28 8 a.m.-noon

Join us for our 6th annual Santa Christmas Hike. Celebrate the season with a unique, fun and challenging hike up to the top of Ranger Peak where you can enjoy a cup of hot chocolate, apple cider or coffee. After you're done taking in the view be sure to stop in and shop for a unique gift in the state park store. Once you're ready to leave, enjoy the ride back down to the base in one of our tram cars. Wear a Santa hat on the hike and receive a free tram ride down the mountain! (915) 562-9899

Visit www.TexasStateParks.org/holidays
for the most up-to-date information
on State Park holiday events.



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Free ornament promotion available only by phone before Dec. 31 2015; not available in parks.

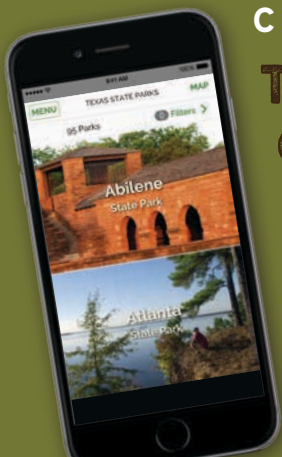
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JANUARY

FIRST DAY HIKES

Recover from the holidays by joining us for a First Day Hike on New Year's Day!

Most Texas State Parks will have special hikes, walks, runs or paddles for all skill levels. Start the year off right – find a First Day Hike near you:

www.TexasStateParks.org/firstdayhikes